

## House Resolution 373

By: Representatives Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Murphy of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Bridges of the 10<sup>th</sup>, Dean of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Talton of the 145<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Rotary International on the 100th Anniversary of its founding; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, the world's first service club, was founded  
4 on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wanted to recapture in a  
5 professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth; and

6 WHEREAS, Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States as clubs were chartered  
7 from San Francisco to New York over the next decade, and by 1921, Rotary clubs had been  
8 formed on six continents, prompting the organization to adopt the name Rotary International  
9 a year later; and

10 WHEREAS, the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" inspires members to provide  
11 humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will and peace in  
12 the world; and

13 WHEREAS, after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting  
14 international understanding, and their relationship with the United Nations dates back to  
15 1945 when 49 Rotary members served in 29 delegations to the United Nations Charter  
16 Conference; and

17 WHEREAS, the 1943 London Rotary conference attended by ministers of education and  
18 observers from around the world was an impetus to the establishment of the United Nations  
19 Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and

20 WHEREAS, Rotary funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise  
21 to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and  
22 education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1985, Rotary launched Polio Plus and spearheaded efforts with the World  
2 Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to  
3 immunize the children of the world against polio; and

4 WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the  
5 threshold of eradicating the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Rotary is the world's largest privately funded source of international  
7 scholarships and promotes international understanding through scholarships, exchange  
8 programs, and humanitarian grants; and

9 WHEREAS, more than 35,000 students from 110 countries have studied abroad since 1947  
10 as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars; and

11 WHEREAS, there are over 387,000 Rotary club members in more than 7,700 clubs  
12 throughout the United States sponsoring service projects to address such critical issues as  
13 poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and  
14 abroad.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
16 the members of this body commend Rotary International and Georgia Rotarians in particular  
17 for their service to communities worldwide.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
19 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Rotary International.